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THE USD VISTA

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San Diego's first mayoral race between two Democrats

Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry have been making their case to San Diego for the past year. Nov. 3 will determine the future of the city, and their political careers

TYLER PUGMIRE
NEWS EDITOR

As San Diegans begin to fill out their ballots, a historic race between two Democrats that strongly oppose one another is playing out: the mayoral race. Candidate Todd Gloria served as a City Councilmember from 2008 until 2016, when he decided to run for State Assembly and has since served there for the past four years. He also served as interim Mayor between 2013 and 2014. Barbara Bry is a more moderate

Democrat who has been a City Councilmember since 2016. Bry is a current resident of La Jolla, and Gloria currently resides in Mission Hills. Incumbent mayor Kevin Faulconer, a Republican, has hit his term limit and will hand over the keys to city hall after inauguration.

Todd Gloria is a native San Diegan and a University of San Diego alumni, where he received his bachelor's degree in history and political science. He began his platform running on the issues of homelessness,

housing affordability, and climate change, and has promised to develop a modern public transportation system.

Barbara Bry is from Philadelphia, and attended the University of Pennsylvania where she obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in sociology, and also obtained a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University. Her campaign's top priorities come in the form of keeping San Diego safe, clean, and prosperous, navigating

the homelessness crisis, and expanding the tech industry in downtown San Diego, in order to bring jobs closer to those who live in the city.

In terms of endorsements, large names of the Democratic Party on a national scale, such as Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Diane Feinstein, and Governor Gavin Newsom all support Todd Gloria. Barbara Bry has the support of many local leaders such as Father Joe Carroll, City Councilmember Donna

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Photo Courtesy of Barbara Bry



Photo courtesy of Todd Gloria for Mayor

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Frye, and Congressman Mike Levin.

On discussing how San Diego's economy could bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic, Todd Gloria has presented a plan called "Back to Work SD," a comprehensive initiative intended to rejuvenate the economy while keeping case numbers low.

"We recognize we cannot fully reopen our economy until our schools are open, and the city should be a full partner with our school district to make sure that our students and our teachers are safe," Gloria said. "We spend about \$500 million dollars on contracts to companies that are outside of San Diego ... trying to bring those back to San Diego can help a lot of small businesses get back on their feet."

Bry would give significant help to small businesses. "I've worked on a detailed roadmap to recovery with a group of small business owners, high tech and biotech entrepreneurs, and community leaders to address how we can grow our economy going forward," Bry said. "It focuses on universal Internet access and growing high tech and biotech (industries) and creating good service

sector jobs out of them." She stressed that this will not only continue jobs for those in STEM, but marketers and those in the business world would also reap the benefits of her plan.

Listing housing as a priority, Bry would also enforce existing laws against short-term rentals and look to bring back 16,000 housing units to be available for both purchase and long-term rent. She would also continue updating community plans and develop a first time down payment assistance plan for first-time homeowners.

Gloria's response to this issue would be to build more housing, specifically for the middle class. He said that along with the affordable housing trust fund, he would like to create a middle-income housing trust fund. He would also like to increase a permitting department that is committed to customer service. Lastly, he argued that San Diego needs to make better use of public land, and is trying to use the Sports Arena land for more housing that would drive down the costs of surrounding houses as well. He cited that communities such as North Park and Little Italy have become more affordable due to an increase in housing in

Barbara Bry	Todd Gloria
1 Political transparency	1 Protecting health while making an economic comeback
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3 Protecting San Diego neighborhoods	3 Fixing San Diego infrastructure

Mikaela Foehr/The USD Vista

their communities.

Both candidates also claim that they will make major strides towards addressing climate change. "I was the mayor who created the Climate Action Plan, I am going to be the mayor that implements and enforces the Climate Action Plan," said Gloria.

Bry believes that the Climate Action Plan needs to be updated and improved, and claimed that she would cut emissions down to zero by 2030. Both candidates are looking to be at the forefront of the fight against climate change.

Todd Gloria and Barbara Bry have both made their claims as to why USD students should vote for them. Gloria specifically mentioned that housing is simply too expensive for students coming out of college, and he is working to improve

those conditions so that the investment that the city has put into San Diego's universities can be returned by those that are handed the diploma on graduation day.

Assemblymember Bry is attempting to get the student vote by creating an economy where students will be able to get good jobs. She also has a housing plan that aims to strike down costs and also wants to create a major tech and biotech employment center downtown, as well as a biopharmaceutical center in Otay Mesa.

Even though both candidates are Democrats, they represent vastly different demographics. Todd Gloria is seen as a progressive Democrat, while Bry tends to be closer to the middle of the political spectrum, and has the support of many Republicans in the San Diego area.

The Election Countdown: A look at the final presidential debate

It is evident that even after the last debate, this election season remains unprecedented in a multitude of ways

EMMA VALDISERRI
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The presidential election is just one week away as Americans make their final efforts to vote by mail, vote early, or cast their ballots on election day. Last week, President Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden took the stage for the final presidential debate. Now, it's a matter of time for the American people to determine the results of the election in continuation of this tumultuous year.

The debate took place at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, with

NBC's Kristen Welker as the moderator. It consisted of a 90 minute discussion, covering six separate segments including COVID-19, race, national security, climate change, American families, and political leadership. In consideration of the constant interruptions during the first debate, the final debate called for muting each candidate's microphone as each of them spoke for their respective two minutes on each topic.

One of USD's political science professors, Dr. Casey Dominguez, Ph.D., commented on the topic

of muting, believing it to be a disappointingly necessary step.

"(It's) in the interest of the voters," Dominguez said. "The whole point of a debate is to allow voters to hear how candidates respond to questions and get a sense of their position on the issues (they) care about. So if (there) has to be a mute button, then so be it, but for adults it should not be necessary."

Normally, USD Votes and the university's political science department would host debate viewings in Frank's Lounge and the UC's with pizza and discussion.

In light of current circumstances, the two programs collaborated in a final debate discussion using Discord, a messaging platform where faculty and students had the opportunity to share ideas and ask any debate-related questions.

In comparison to the first debate, the final debate allowed more clarification and less interruption when it came to the discussion of policy. Both debates covered similar topics, triggering similar answers: President Trump laid claim to his success with the economy

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Trump and Biden are encouraging their supporters to vote by Nov. 3.

Photo Courtesy of the Library of Congress Photo courtesy of beemergirl99/flickr



President Trump held a rally in Farmingdale, New York over the weekend.

Photo courtesy of Erika Nichols

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as former vice president in regards to criminal justice reform and Biden denounced Trump for his handling of the pandemic.

“I don’t think attacking is necessarily a bad thing. Attacking your opponent on their record and on their policy is a policy discussion,” Dominguez added. “Debates are supposed to be critical, especially against an incumbent; that’s part of the deal.”

Once again, the New York Times ran a live fact-checking system during the debate, classifying a variety of each candidate’s claims as true, false, misleading, exaggerated, or lacking evidence. Beneath each selected statement lies context and analysis supporting the classification.

In regards to race,

President Trump said “Nobody has done more for the Black community than Donald Trump. If you look, with the exception of Abraham Lincoln, the possible exception, nobody has done what I’ve done.” This was proven false, placing President Lyndon B. Johnson at the top of the list after passing the Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act into legislative effect.

Biden was also proven false when discussing America’s economic relations with China, claiming Trump and his administration have “caused the deficit with China to go up, not down.” However, also in regards to China, Biden was correct in stating that President Trump conducts business with China and has a secret bank account there.

USD alumni, Ryan Gentry, commented on the nature of the final debate and the effects leading up to the election.

“I get the feeling that Donald Trump is playing to his base and then Joe Biden is trying to win over undecided voters, if there even are any of those,” Gentry said. “When they got focused on policy, I think people stopped listening because I think people are trying to watch these debates like how you would want to watch a boxing match with crazy punches thrown. Nobody is tuning in to hear a plan. I think people have made up their minds already.”

The debate took place less than two weeks before the election. Mail-in ballots can take up to two weeks to be received and counted. In this regard, Dominguez commented

on the importance of the final debate, despite it being so close to the election and the altered methods Americans are taking to vote.

“We wouldn’t usually expect it to make a difference, but it can make a small difference,” Dominguez said. “I think it’s an important civic tradition. It’s important for public candidates to have to face public questioning when they can avoid it in every other way.”

As the 2020 presidential debates have come to an end, the election is just one week away. At the time of the final debate, nearly 50 million Americans have cast their ballots. With that said, there are plenty of Americans left to vote and have their voices heard as the controversial status of democracy confronts the nation.

Joe Biden for President

USD College Democrats endorse Joe Biden for the 2020 presidential election

USD COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

The country finds itself at yet another crossroads this election season. While USD Democrats endorse Joe Biden, it is imperative that we see our choice in this election not merely as a vote for a particular candidate, but a vote for the kind of country we want to live in after this election is over. The two futures America is deciding between will most definitely look very different. We must vote for a country where progressive ideals are not

only prioritized, but where they are even possible. This is not a normal election, and these are not normal times. This year, character, competence, and credibility are on the ballot. We currently have a president that has no respect for the institution of government in which he holds office. Trump's refusal to guarantee a peaceful transfer of power if he loses is a clear refusal to guarantee the future of America's democracy.

When evaluating Trump's first term, we see worsening political division, the

current recession due to his mishandling of COVID-19, the dangerous foreign policy position of the U.S. due to his incendiary rhetoric and lack of multilateral cooperation, and his absent commitment to the crisis of climate change. Having taken over one hundred actions toward federal climate deregulation and referring to climate change as a "hoax" — Trump has effectively dismantled the political capabilities that are most necessary in the fight for the health of the environment that we call

home.

When it comes to climate change, the Biden Plan will seek to reestablish crucial milestone plans that Trump has ignored, invest in greener infrastructure, and recommit to international agreements that Trump has withdrawn from. He is committed to rolling back Trump's tax incentives that enrich corporations, and will invest in clean energy that will incentivize the development of new technology and create well-paying jobs. While Trump's actions

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Former Vice President Joe Biden is the Democratic party nominee in the 2020 presidential election.

Photo courtesy of Tracy Robillard/ flickr

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have prioritized short-term economic gain, Biden understands that combating climate change is a vital necessity for protecting any viable future for Americans and our economy.

We must not forget that our current president has been impeached on counts of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, along with being accused of sexual misconduct including assault by 26 different women. He has increased the national debt by 5.6 trillion dollars in his first term. He has now appointed a third of the Supreme Court after having lost the popular vote by a larger margin than any other U.S. president in history. He has implemented a “zero tolerance” immigration policy that separated thousands of children from their parents. He has issued a rule reversing nondiscrimination protections for transgender people seeking healthcare and a ban from them serving in the military. He has not created or supported any gun violence prevention policies even though mass shootings and gun deaths have hit record numbers in the U.S. over the last three years of his presidency.

It is clear that we

cannot give Donald Trump another four years in this country’s highest, most respected office. The Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, is exceptionally well qualified, through character and experience, to meet the daunting challenges that the nation will face over the coming four years. We trust that Biden will continue to take COVID-19 seriously with his seven-point plan, committing first and foremost to the lives of Americans, listening to science, and making public health decisions informed by public health professionals.

Biden wants to make healthcare accessible and economical for all Americans by building on the foundations of the Affordable Care Act. He plans to increase the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage, repeal exceptions that allow prescription drug companies to abuse their power, and is committed to maintaining access to contraception and abortion services. Biden’s priority is ensuring that quality healthcare is a right for all, not only the privileged.

Biden has expressed that his immigration policies will focus on

legislative immigration reform that will ensure the U.S. can welcome people from every part of the world. Biden has pledged that within his first one hundred days, he will send legislation to Congress that will provide a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. During his term, Trump caused the longest government shutdown in U.S. history in order to get funding for the border wall, which has since cost taxpayers 30 million dollars per mile.

Biden’s plan to bolster the economy prioritizes revitalizing the middle class and tackling the racial wealth gap in this country. While he has cast himself as more of a moderate when it comes to economic policy, his pro-growth, progressive tax code is expected to raise around \$4 trillion dollars in revenue over the next decade. The top one percent would bear three quarters of his proposed tax increase. By repealing tax cuts for high-income business losses, Biden also plans to expand his student debt plan that would incorporate more loan-forgiveness programs and increase the generosity of income-based repayment programs.

While Biden’s policy

positions are reason enough to endorse him, we must look at the foundational values of the candidates in this election. The bottom line is that Trump has not come through on his promises to ordinary Americans. He has prioritized maintaining his political power through any means necessary. If we want a president that listens to the needs of his constituents, who values their diverse identities, and respects the democratic processes and institutions that he is a part of, we must cast our vote for Joe Biden.

A vote for Biden — and Kamala — is a vote for racial justice, a vote for members of the LGBTQ+ community, a vote for the environment, for immigrants, for hard-working Americans, for students, for all of those who have suffered from this virus, and a vote for mending the political division in this country. We urge you to ask yourselves if this country is truly “great again,” and if not, vote for Joe Biden.

The views expressed in the editorial and op-ed sections are not necessarily those of The USD Vista staff, the University of San Diego, or its student body.

President Trump for re-election

College Republicans at USD endorse Donald Trump for re-election

USD COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

Given the incredibly high stakes of this year's presidential race, we, as innovative changemakers committed to confronting humanity's urgent challenges, are also committed to exercising this right responsibly by voting for the candidate who stands for decency and respect rather than hatred. The candidate who truly seeks to defeat

racism. The candidate who believes in facts over fiction. The candidate who will put Americans first.

And that is why we, the College Republicans at the University of San Diego, are proud to endorse President Donald J. Trump for re-election.

Although many major news outlets give the president perpetually negative press, that doesn't change the fact that the president's record for true and positive changemaking speaks for

itself.

Trump's campaign and administration promised to cut back federal taxes and regulations in order to stimulate the economy like never before and put more money in the pockets of American workers. Since his inauguration, the national unemployment rate had reached its lowest level in 50 years before COVID-19, and security markets such as the Dow Jones and Nasdaq have shattered records over 450 times.

He has achieved record-low unemployment for minorities, and has also dramatically narrowed the unemployment gap between college graduates and those unable to attain higher education. Additionally, contrary to the common myth that the president's tax cuts only benefited the very wealthy, MarketWatch reports that Americans earning between \$40,000 and \$50,000 per year saw the largest drop in average

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President Donald Trump is up for re-election in the 2020 election, taking place on Nov. 3.

Photo courtesy of Shealah Craighead/flickr

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tax liability – about 14.5% – as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Americans and their businesses are now better off and have more opportunities to hire new employees and invest their capital.

Of course, one cannot speak about the economy without acknowledging the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many are quick to blame the president for failing to listen to scientists and act in a timely manner to stop the spread of the virus, but his actions do not reflect these accusations.

The U.S. saw its first case of COVID on Jan. 20. Ten days later, on Jan. 31, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency, and the president immediately ordered a halt to all travel to or from China, a move which top epidemiologist Dr. Anthony Fauci praised.

Upon declaring a national emergency on Mar. 13, President Trump established public-private partnerships with several manufacturers and retailers from across the globe to mass-produce and distribute tests, personal protective equipment for frontline workers, and medical devices such as ventilators. This partnership gave

way to Operation Warp Speed, an effort by the administration to expedite research and deployment of vaccines and therapeutics. To this day, the administration's resolve to defeat this virus has not wavered, and the president himself continues to follow experts' recommendations and take decisive action to minimize the damage of COVID-19.

However, along with the pandemic, 2020 has brought another pivotal issue to the forefront of our society: racial injustice. In addition to yielding the lowest-ever unemployment rate for BIPOC, Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act established Opportunity Zones, creating tax incentives for people to invest their capital gains in economically-distressed and underserved communities in order to pump money into their local economies and create opportunities for residents to thrive. Among the key areas of life which President Trump sought to improve for residents of these underserved communities is education. By their decisive actions, his administration has fought hard for equal educational opportunities for all American students, regardless of their race,

religion, or location. In the president's own words, "School choice is the civil rights (issue) of all time ... a child's ZIP code in America should never determine their future."

Most importantly, however, President Trump strongly believes that each and every American has the God-given right to life, and has distinguished himself as the most pro-life president in the history of our country. He has taken actions to defund Planned Parenthood, an organization which recently admitted that its own founder, Margaret Sanger, was in fact a white supremacist whose stated goal was to eugenically limit the growth of the Black population. However, to continue affirming the right to life for all BIPOC, President Trump cracked down on police brutality in the wake of George Floyd's murder by signing an executive order creating a national database to report and track cases of police misconduct, to hold law enforcement agencies accountable for maintaining the integrity of their employees and ensuring that they unequivocally respect the dignity of each human being.

It is difficult to find opinions regarding

Trump's undeniable success as president, because the left-wing bias of popular corporate news outlets has caused our country to be perpetually inundated with biased facts. We believe that another four years of President Trump will not only discredit those who seek to destroy our country with hatred and division, but will ultimately lead the preservation of our constitutional freedoms and secure economic growth and opportunity for all Americans. His personality may be rather unconventional and unpolished at times, but he truly stands for "we the people" and seeks to pass policies that benefit everyday Americans, while pushing for accountability on all levels of government.

So come join us, the happy and accepting supporters of President Trump. All it takes is an open, analytical mind, a thirst for truth, and a love for your fellow American. We promise you, you will never look back.

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Amitkumar Kakkad Ph.D. dares students to fulfill their potential

How Kakkad Ph.D. claimed a gratifying second career and emphasizes hard work in areas of weakness

ABIGAIL RUSSELL
CONTRIBUTOR

University of San Diego business school professor, Amitkumar Kakkad, Ph.D., encourages students to reach for their goals and tap into their unfulfilled potential. Kakkad teaches courses within the realms of operations management and management science at USD. After he became an engineer, Kakkad established a second career in teaching and explained how it has illuminated his world.

“For the first half of my life, teaching academia was not in the picture,” Kakkad said. “I had a taste of large companies, start-ups, and I wanted to try something different. So, I told myself, ‘If I don’t have to worry about making a living, I’m now free to choose a career that can be more satisfying.’ Academia gives something that industry can’t: the ability to positively influence students — who are the future.”

Kakkad has contributed many things to the USD community

and its students, including his involvement and leadership in the Fowler Business Concept Challenge (FBCC). This competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate USD students. It welcomes almost any business idea, rewarding the top 16 finalists with scholarship money. As the strategic advisor to USD’s Entrepreneurship and Innovation Catalyzer, Kakkad explained what he believes is the true value behind the challenge.

“Students take an idea, from a little flash of light in their heads, to something that they can share,” Kakkad said. “They learn to make it convincing, and they achieve the ability to connect with other people. Are those good skills to practice whether they win or not? Absolutely. Everything we do in life, we are constantly selling our ideas, ourselves, and our concepts. The benefit is enormous, and it’s the biggest win.”

With the goals behind the FBCC, Kakkad feels a great responsibility to guide his students on a successful path. While

having an extensive career in business corporations and start-ups, Kakkad used his first career to multiply the impact he has on his students.

“I have the grand opportunity to help students with their business ideas every day,” Kakkad said. “I was part of successful companies in the past, and I love both parts of my life: engineering and teaching. One cannot do well

without the other; when I was an engineer, I was very technical. Now as a teacher, I use some of my past experiences to help students, and they also help me with exploring myself.”

While being surrounded by a data-driven world, Kakkad recognizes the enormous importance of the “right side” of the brain. The “right side” focuses

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Amitkumar Kakkad Ph.D. enjoys extreme sports in his free time.

Photo courtesy of Amitkumar Kakkad

From Page 9 on social interaction, creativity, and the arts. He emphasized how it's essential to hone skills with both sides of the brain.

"I thought engineering was my destiny," Kakkad said. "I used the left side of my brain heavily, and I wasn't as good with the right. As an engineer when I was working, I realized that using just one side will never get you to where you want to be."

Kakkad grasps that having one outlook or mindset will not lead to one's end goal. He vocalizes his belief on the true purpose of working hard and toward a personal desire: to benefit civilization.

"At the end of the day, technology, logic, and engineering needs to be put to use in a way that is beneficial to communities, the planet, and to people," Kakkad said. "Science to me is never the end. I now have an appreciation for both sides of the brain, and teaching helps me explore the right side every day of my life."

Kakkad has lived in three different countries: India, England, and the United States. He was born in India, and uses his experiences and occupations in these different nations

to provide knowledge and key insights to his students.

"All of my experiences in different places have made me a wiser person," Kakkad said. "But in a way, having lived in these three continents, Asia, the U.S., and the U.K., I now joke that I belong to all of them. However, to the natives of those places I now look like a complete outsider."

The different regions and cultures expanded Kakkad's outlook and skillset. In addition, he also uses his extracurriculars to teach life lessons to his classes.

"I don't consider myself a daredevil, but anyone who looks at my hobbies would definitely assume that I'm an adrenaline junkie," Kakkad said. "To me, I love doing things I enjoy while fully accepting the risk of them. I take my life lightly due to my hobbies; everything has a high chance of risk."

Whether he's jumping out of a plane, paragliding, hang gliding, scuba diving, or drag racing, Kakkad understands his interests all have a factor of risk. He tells stories to his classes about these experiences that reiterate some sort of importance. For example, he enjoys racing cars and motorcycles. As a motorcyclist, he considers



Kakkad teaches courses in the business school at USD.

Photo courtesy of Amitkumar Kakkad

himself a good enough driver to never drop his motorcycle. However, he describes how he once tipped over his motorcycle while it wasn't even moving.

"I take this story and use it to remind my students to always check themselves and their work: don't just brush off things that seem like common sense. Please, verify your submissions on Blackboard," Kakkad said.

Although involved in high-risk activities, Kakkad uses his dangerous interests to assert meaning in his students' lives. He also describes his teaching career as a rewarding opportunity to help students who have all sorts of strengths. He

concludes how he believes students grow and gain their potential.

"When I get students who have strong ideas, I also let them know that their presentation is very important," Kakkad said. "They must project efficiently and be convincing. It's also vital for everyone to have a sort of humbleness. To say, 'Hey, I'm not very good at this and need to work on it.' We all should seek out people who have skills and strengths that complement our own." Kakkad desires all students to seek discomfort in order to improve themselves. He believes that the students that have developed their entrepreneurial ideas for the FBCC have taken this step of growth.

What Could Happen if the Presidential Election Results are Contested



Photo courtesy of AP Photo/Alex Brandon



Photo courtesy of Gage Skidmore

President Donald Trump has been explicit in sharing his belief that the unprecedented number of mail-in ballots this election will lead to widespread voter fraud, and that the Democrats could harm his chances of being re-elected. He has gone as far to refuse to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses to Democratic candidate Joe Biden. No other U.S. president throughout history has said they will refuse to accept the outcome of a presidential election.

Many Democrats worry that Trump's campaign will seek to dispute the election results if Biden prevails. This could set off a political and legal fiasco in which the decision of the election will fall into the hands of a combination of the courts, Congress, and state politicians.

States have more than a month to count ballots including mail-in ballots, and conduct recounts if necessary. **States' electoral votes have to be cast on Dec. 14.**

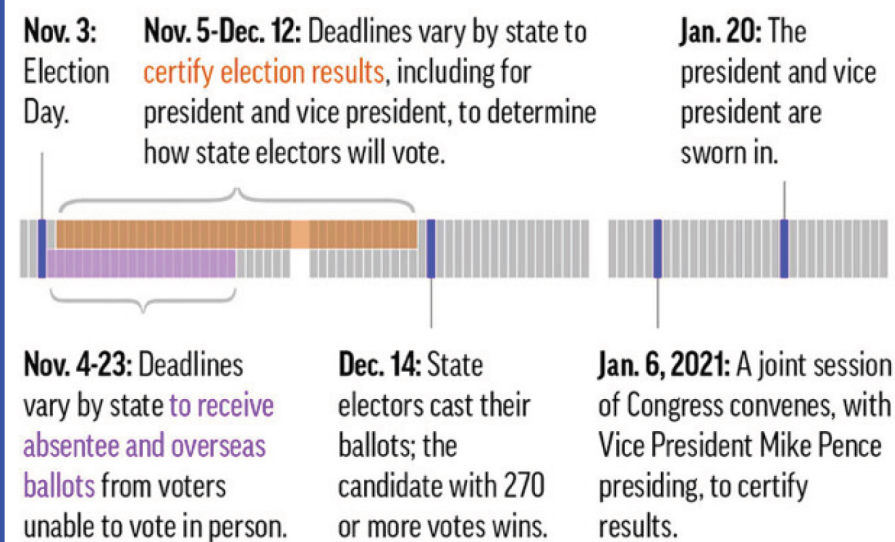


Photo courtesy of AP Election Services; National Archives

Here are the possible scenarios at play:

U.S. Supreme Court:

- A **close election could result in a lawsuit** over voting and ballot-counting methods **especially in swing states** that could be **decided by the Supreme Court**. The Court settled a recount dispute during the 2000 presidential election in *Bush v. Gore*.
- Trump's justice nomination, **Amy Coney Barret**, was **confirmed** to fill Ruth Bader Ginsburg's now-vacant seat on Oct. 26. This has created a **6 to 3 conservative majority on the court** that could result in a win for Trump.

Electoral College:

- The candidate who wins each state's vote typically wins that state's electors.**
 - The electors will **meet on Dec. 14** to cast votes
 - Both chambers of Congress will meet on Jan. 6 to count the votes and name the winner.
 - Governors certify the results in their respective states and share this information with Congress.
- Battleground states that have Democratic governors and Republican-controlled legislatures could submit two different election results.**
 - In this instance, both chambers of Congress would have to decide which slate of "dueling electors" to accept.
 - The **electoral count will be counted by the new Congress sworn in on Jan. 3rd.**
 - If the two chambers disagree, it is not known what will happen.**

Contingent Election:

- If neither candidate secures a majority** of the electoral votes, this **would create a "contingent election"** under the 12th Amendment of the Constitution
 - The **House of Representatives** would **choose the president** and the **Senate** would **choose the vice president**
 - Each state delegation in the House would get a single vote
- A contingent election also takes place when there is a 269-269 tie after the election
- Any **election dispute in Congress** would be **decided by Jan. 20**, the date when the term of the current president officially ends as mandated by the Constitution
 - Under the **Presidential Succession Act**, if **Congress has not decided** the presidential or vice presidential winner by this date then the **Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, would serve as the acting president**

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Join us in celebrating the 16 semi-finalist teams who have been chosen from across the USD campus! Help us decide who should take home the Audience Choice Awards with your votes!



Celebrating the safest and spookiest Halloween

Spreading good vibes and fun times on Halloween without spreading COVID-19

TAYLOR DEGUZMAN
A&C EDITOR

The spookiest holiday of the year is creeping right around the corner. Halloween is on a Saturday this year, which means no school and a full day to celebrate. However, just because Halloween falls on the weekend this year, does not mean that COVID-19 will be ghosting people who want to celebrate. There are still many ways to celebrate Halloween this year in the safest way possible.

Usually, people are scrambling to DIY the coolest Halloween costumes or thrift a few pieces to put an outfit together. Some individuals go out to watch a scary movie with their group of friends, and others stay out late at parties to dance the monster mash and the night away. It is no secret that Halloween, and especially “Halloween-weekend,” are highly anticipated evenings for people to bask in all of the Halloween spirit and festivities until it officially marks Christmas on Nov.



Friends can show off their costumes and do a costume reveal over Zoom in order to maintain social-distance.

Taylor DeGuzman/The USD Vista

1, or Thanksgiving for a few.

Even though it would've been typical to go out and share the evening with tons of friends, there is no mistaking that a global pandemic is still here, and that people need to be mindful of others' health and wellbeing. In order to respect others, here are a few ideas on how individuals can indulge in less tricks and more treats this year and celebrate in the safest way possible.

Host a Costume Zoom Party and play “Among Us”

What better way to celebrate Halloween,

in the most socially-distanced and safe way possible, than a costume Zoom party while playing “Among Us” with best friends. Those who are at home right now, and not in San Diego, can still dress up and celebrate Halloween like usual, but instead over Zoom.

Everyone can still get ready, get dressed up and show off either their \$60 outfit from the Halloween store or their DIY “Euphoria” fit (that everyone will be wearing this year) while keeping social distance. To add to the evening, everyone can play this season's most popular game, “Among Us,” with each other and

instead of using the text chat function on the game, you can discuss who the “Imposter” is over Zoom and look for any poker faces amongst friends.

Go to a local neighborhood and judge Halloween decorations

Even though college students would definitely be trick or treating this year, unfortunately, because of COVID-19 they cannot. However, what they can do is drive around different neighborhoods, blasting “Spooky Scary Skeletons” on repeat, and judge the best decorated homes

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This Halloween decorated front yard is mimicking the “Pirates of the Caribbean” ride at Disneyland.

Taylor DeGuzman/The USD Vista

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or even go outside and take a few pictures with the best looking houses. Around this time of year, people typically go all out with decorations, so it could be a fun adventure to grab some food, good company, and blast some good music and drive during the evening to get a last look at Halloween decorated homes.

Have a Halloween movie marathon with roommates

There are so many great Halloween movie classics to choose from and great thrillers if friends want the evening to take a scary turn. If looking for

an incredibly terrifying and relatable horror film, try watching the movie “Host,” which takes place over quarantine and over Zoom. The premise of the film follows a group of friends who are performing a séance all over Zoom, and once one thing goes wrong, everything begins to unfold and the viewer watches chilling events through the lens of the Zoom gallery view, which feels all too familiar. This contemporary horror film will leave viewers on the edge of their seat from start to finish. “Host” viewers will be hesitant to re-open Zoom for school, in fear that something is lurking in the corner of

their own Zoom screen.

Halloween night drive-in movie: “Coco”

From the comfort of one’s vehicle, watch the Pixar family favorite “Coco.” This heart-warming film centers around the cultural importance of Día de Los Muertos and the significance of following one’s heart. The film is hosted by Cal State San Marcos and tickets start at \$25 for two people in a vehicle and \$45 for four people in a vehicle. Tickets are on sale on their website. The film starts at 8 p.m., and snack packs that include pretzels, white cheddar popcorn,

peanut M&Ms, trail mix, Red Vines, Whoppers, Hazelnut Nutella Spread, and Ritz Crackers are sold at \$20 before the film begins.

There are so many ways to celebrate Halloween that respects the wellbeing of others and oneself. Whether it be virtual costume parties or simply driving around the neighborhood blasting music, one can still have the funnest and safest night possible without causing an unnecessary spike of cases. Everyone knows ghouls just wanna have fun, but in the spirit of the world at the moment, please be mindful of each other and have the happiest of Halloweens.

Last-minute Halloween costumes

In a crunch? Here are some Halloween costumes to throw together with closet staples.

OLIVIA HUNT
ASST. A&C EDITOR

With only a week to go until the end of October, it's officially costume crunch time. Though Halloween will undoubtedly look different this year, there are definitely some ways to celebrate safely — and still rock a creative costume. Below are some punny, DIY-inspired costume ideas for when there isn't time to run to the Halloween store.

“Ghosting”

The first last-minute costume idea is “Ghosting,” and it's probably the spookiest costume on the roster. We all know what ghosting is — when someone cuts off all communication with a possible romantic interest, without any warning or notice beforehand. When it's merged with an actual ghost? Double the fright. One fourth-year USD student, Helena Witiw, executed this idea last Halloween with a fresh, DIY flair. She explained

what her initial vision was for the costume.

“Since Fall especially tends to be ‘ghosting season,’ I wanted to do some sort of pun where I’m dressed as a ‘ghosting’ ghost,” Witiw said. “I wanted to keep it simple, using fabric markers and a large white T-shirt, and drew a bunch of unanswered iMessage bubbles.”

Helena shared her opinion on store-bought costumes versus last-minute costumes.

“Store-bought is usually less memorable, because there's no creativity in it. You just buy it and it's done. That's definitely not as fun,” she said. “At the same time, if you make a costume on your own weeks in advance, you could get burnout. When you make a costume a few days ahead, it always unexpectedly comes out better.”

Helena also shared some insight into how her friends and classmates reacted to her last-minute costume idea.

“This was probably the

costume I got the most compliments on,” she said. “I wore it to class on Halloween day and everyone kept asking to take pictures of it. I ended up on a lot of snap stories.”

“Smarty Pants”

Another last-minute costume, with a similar DIY-spirit as Helena's, is the “Smarty Pants”

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The front of the “Ghosting” Halloween Costume

Photo courtesy of Helena Witiw

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costume. Basically, one can tape or super glue packs of Smarties candies to an old pair of pants. To make them stick mess free, you can use small dots of glue or double-sided tape. To add to the stereotypical nerd look, one can wear a pair of glasses or hold a textbook as a prop.

person in the room.

“The Breadwinner”

This costume idea is perfect for anyone who loves bread just as much as they love sports. If someone’s a college athlete, they may already have some trophies or medals lying around their house. Using one or two

punny punchline, pose with whichever loaves of bread they have in their kitchen.

“When life gives you lemons...”

did for her “Ghosting” costume, another creative idea is to write the word “LIFE” on a plain white T-shirt and hand some lemons out to friends. This pun is guaranteed

“Store-bought is usually less memorable, because there’s no creativity in it. You just buy it and it’s done. That’s definitely not as fun. When you make it a few days ahead, it always unexpectedly comes out better.”

- Helena Witiw

“Though Halloween will undoubtedly look different this year, there are definitely some ways to celebrate safely – and still rock a creative costume.”

With this creative costume, there will be no doubt who’s the smartest as an accessory, they can wear their team jersey or sports gear — and, for the

This costume also includes some food people typically already have in their kitchen — lemons. Inspired by the fabric-marker drawing that Witiw

to make friends cringe in delight, will stand out amongst other Halloween costumes, and bring a smile to friends’ the night of Halloween.

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Men's golf wins La Purisima College Invite

Toreros earn first tournament crown since 2014, Xu and Reiter both finish on podium

ERIC BOOSE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of San Diego men's golf team entered the final round with a 12-shot lead and held on to win the La Purisima College Invite last Tuesday. The tournament featured four West Coast Conference teams: USD was joined by Saint Mary's, Loyola Marymount, and BYU. San Diego came out on top of the pile, finishing with a team score of three under par, four shots better than second-place Saint Mary's.

Newcomers Charlie Reiter and Andi Xu led the Toreros, each earning a place in the top three of the individual rankings. Reiter, a redshirt sophomore who transferred to San Diego from the University of Southern California, played tremendously over the first two rounds, shooting five under par on day one.

"We had a practice round the day before, and Coach Riley and the guys, we all had a good game plan for how we wanted to attack the course in the first two rounds," Reiter



Charlie Reiter, playing in his second tournament after joining the Toreros from the University of Southern California, helped USD run out to a big lead, and finished day one atop the individual leaderboard.

Photo courtesy of USD Athletics

said. "I just played it to a tee, I guess you could say, played it exactly the way I wanted to."

But Reiter struggled in the final round. He shot six over par, dropping him from first place to a tie for third, partly thanks to a two-stroke penalty for an infringement on the green.

"He made a mistake, he got a two-stroke penalty for not moving his marker back on the putting green," Coach Riley said. "A player can ask you to move your mark because their ball might hit it on the putting green. If you don't put it back when it's your turn to put, then it's

a two-stroke penalty. He kind of blanked on that."

Fortunately for Reiter and the Toreros, the rest of the field struggled in the third round as well. Only four out of the 32 golfers shot below par on the final day.

"They made the course a lot tougher, they tucked a lot of pins the last day, so it was a little tougher than the first few days, but it was still gettable," Reiter said. "It was just a little harder to get closer to the pins, to get birdie opportunities."

First year Andi Xu was one of the four to keep their third round under par, ensuring the Toreros

kept their lead as a team, and earning himself second place. And while his team picked up a win, after almost blowing a big lead, Riley says there is still work to be done.

"Definitely didn't play well the final round, but we played well enough to get the win," Riley said. "I look back at it, and I'm kind of happy that we didn't close them out and bury them by so many points. It's hard to play with a big lead, and I think we're going to take a lot of experience and learn from not playing well the last round."

Riley added that Reiter

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handled his poor play on Tuesday well.

"He was more concerned about the team winning than himself, so that's Charlie Reiter for you, he's all about the team and helping the team," Riley said. "He'll bounce back, he told me he's ready for the next one, which is in a couple weeks."

That "next one" is scheduled for Nov. 5-6 — The Rustic Collegiate Classic, at Rustic Canyon Golf Course in Moorepark, California. It will serve not only as USD's fall finale, but a chance to see how they measure up against Pepperdine — a WCC foe and the number one team in the nation last year.

"It is a good test to see, now that we got one tournament that we won and played well, see if we can do that again and see how we match up against the best team in the country," Reiter said.

San Diego and Pepperdine will be joined by Saint Mary's, LMU, and BYU at Rustic Canyon next week.

FINAL TEAM STANDINGS, LA PURISIMA COLLEGE INVITE

1. SAN DIEGO, -3

2. SAINT MARY'S, +1

3. LMU, +16

4. BYU, +24

Toreros practice during pandemic

University of San Diego athletics ramps up as training increases to 20 hours per week

MARIA WATTERS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

While most activity at the University of San Diego has been put on hold to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the athletic department has been hard at work creating a safe environment for Torero athletes to practice and train.

As of the week of Oct. 12, the National Collegiate Athletic Association allowed teams to increase their athletic related activity to 20 hours per week. Both men's and women's basketball teams will begin preseason practices with all players on the court together. Similarly, the new limits will allow baseball to practice with the full team on the field together. For fall sports such as volleyball, baseball, softball, cross country, swimming and diving, tennis, rowing, and soccer, the additional training time will continue through Nov. 8. Football will be allowed up to 15 practice sessions from Oct. 20 to Nov. 8. Both men's and women's basketball teams

and the men's golf team will be allotted 20-hour training weeks through the end of their seasons. However, strict testing regulations and social distancing standards have been set in place to keep the safety of the athletes, coaches, and support staff the top priority.

Low contact risk sports, including tennis, track, swimming and diving, and golf, have

The cross country teams have utilized training pods to prevent crowding during runs by breaking up the athletes into smaller groups, and spreading out the runners.

Despite the apparent training advantages of an outdoor sport, the cross country team has taken particular measures to create as much distance between athletes and other

"It's a sense of normalcy during all this chaotic time, it's perfect to have all the guys back out there and remind them this is what they're playing for."

-Matt Bergandi

been able to practice and train with minimal restriction, and both golf and tennis players have been able to participate in competitions. However, even the sports with the least amount of contact are required to maintain social distancing and monitor potential coronavirus symptoms.

Medium contact risk sports, including baseball, softball, and cross country, have had to take more intense precautions while running their practices.

runners as possible.

"We have aimed at doing workouts in isolated areas where we have limited exposure to the public," head coach Will Guarino said. "We have also adopted a pod environment where we break up people into training pods. These training pods also incorporate different start points to avoid crowding... Since we are outdoors, this also permits athletes to have different

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From Page 19 leave times to maintain pod separation.”

The Torero baseball team was also using this method of breaking the team up into 6-player pods for practices and training. However, as of Monday, Oct. 19, the full baseball team has been able to practice together on the same field. Though more players are sharing the field, the baseball team continues to maintain social distancing and wear masks when off the field, in an effort to return to a sense of normalcy.

“We currently have every single player out on the field at once with our entire coaching staff,” assistant coach Matt Bergandi said. “We are in our twenty hour weeks, we are starting to scrimmage

and we’re just starting to get ready for our last couple of weeks of fall practice ... It’s a sense of normalcy during all this chaotic time, it’s perfect to have all the guys back out there and remind them this is what they are playing for.”

The sports with the highest contact risk are those that require significant physical contact as well as those held indoors. These include volleyball, basketball, football, rowing, and soccer. Each sport has put specific measures in place to maintain the safety of the players, coaches, and support staff, but each is required to undergo surveillance testing every two weeks.

Beginning Oct. 15, both men’s and women’s soccer

teams have been permitted to increase their weekly athletic related activity to 20 hours per week and are required to undergo surveillance testing every two weeks. Coaches and administration must wear masks at all times, and players may only remove their face coverings when engaging in physical activity.

With their season just weeks away, Torero basketball is getting ready to compete. Since Sept. 21, both the men and women’s teams have only been able to participate in conditioning, team meetings, and skills training for a maximum of 12 hours per week. But Oct. 14 initiated the beginning of official preseason practices. Both teams will now be able to

train for up to 20 hours a week, with a maximum of 30 official practices between the opening of preseason and Nov. 25. The Torero basketball teams, coaches, and support staff will also be subject to specific testing for COVID-19. This will include testing three times a week on non-consecutive days beginning Nov. 16.

Ultimately, the University of San Diego’s success in facilitating practices and training for Torero sports teams while keeping the safety of all those involved as the top priority has been no easy task. It is thanks to the participation and cooperation of the players, coaches, support staff, and administration that Torero athletics continue to thrive.



While restrictions on practice are starting to roll back, “high contact” teams like football still have to wait for things to get back to normal, like they were in years past (pictured above).

Anderson Haigler/The USD Vista